

NATIONAL CONSERVATION PLANNING MANUAL

Title 11



**Soil
Conservation
Service**

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NATIONAL CONSERVATION PLANNING MANUAL

(NCPM) 11-V, Second Edition

This second edition supersedes the Resource Conservation Planning Handbook in its entirety. The new edition updates, defines, explains, and gives guidance for conservation planning and implementation.

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New binders and dividers will be furnished at a later date.



R. M. Davis
Administrator

Attachments

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FOREWORD

The National Conservation Planning Manual contains policy, procedures, and guidelines for providing effective technical assistance to people who plan and implement conservation decisions affecting soil, water, and related plant and animal resources. These decisions require a flexible and continuing process of inventory, evaluation, decisionmaking, and implementation. Well-trained employees who understand the process outlined in this manual can help insure that those resources will meet the food, fiber, recreation, environmental, and other needs of this and future generations. This manual applies to all Soil Conservation Service (SCS) programs.

Our goal is to help land users become conservationists who:

- Know potentials of soil, water, and related plant and animal resources,
- Understand the effects of their decisions and actions on the resource base and the environment,
- Use resources to meet their goals in a way that is compatible with the broader interests of all citizens,
- Install resource management systems needed to maintain or improve the resource base, achieve environmental quality, and improve the standard of living, and
- Through word and action, serve as examples to other land users in their respective communities.

To achieve that goal we must understand people and be able to communicate with them. We must be able to deal with changing situations. Equipment, markets, families, knowledge, income levels, and world conditions are some of the major variables causing changes in resource conservation decisions. If we are to help others effectively, we must be informed about these factors and help people adjust to changing conditions.

This National Conservation Planning Manual reflects sociological considerations in decisionmaking and the need for flexibility to accommodate changing conditions. This manual emphasizes the importance of planning, but does not focus on a "plan" as an end product. Rather, it focuses on guiding and encouraging deliberate actions that result in applying conservation to the land. To this end we will provide the land users only those materials needed to achieve their conservation objectives.

The strength of SCS is its ability to help people conserve and develop resources in accordance with their needs by working with and through conservation districts.



SUBPART A - GENERAL

§ 505.1 Purpose of manual.

- (a) This manual defines, explains, and gives guidance for resource conservation planning and implementation.
- (b) Planning and implementation is fundamental to SCS operations. Therefore, it is important that all personnel understand SCS objectives, policies, and responsibilities in planning and implementation.
- (c) National concern for proper use and treatment of soil, water, and related plant and animal resources has increased demands on SCS from individuals, groups, and units of government. This has led to the need for a clear understanding of the role of SCS, the kinds of resource data and technical assistance it furnishes, and what its contribution should be on joint planning efforts.
- (d) Continuous training is necessary in conservation assistance because techniques, tools, needs, and goals are changing at an accelerating rate. This manual is to be used with other suitable material to help develop proficiency in planning and implementation.
- (e) SCS makes periodic analyses and evaluations of its own activities. Other Federal agencies such as Office of the Inspector General (OIG-USDA) and General Accounting Office (GAO) also audit and review SCS. This manual, together with other policy and technical material, serves as a guide in evaluating planning and implementation.
- (f) The glossary (Subpart 507) explains technical terminology used by SCS and others and should be carefully studied before using this manual.
- (g) Some supplemental manual material may be required at the State level to provide additional clarification and to comply with specific State and local laws and regulations. These supplements authorized for use must be in accordance with the SCS directives system. A copy of all State and TSC supplements is to be forwarded to the National office.

§ 505.2 (Reserved)

§ 505.10 Major objectives.

The major SCS objectives in conservation planning are to assist land users to:

- (a) Realize the nature, extent, and importance of soil, water, and related plant and animal resources.
- (b) Understand and manage soil, water, and related plant and animal resources for present and future use on a sustained basis as an integral part of a resource management system.
- (c) Understand and improve the quality of the environment.
- (d) Obtain social, economic, and environmental benefits from limited renewable natural resources while maintaining development options for the future.
- (e) Recognize and develop resource-based economic opportunities, especially for minorities and low-income land users.
- (f) Develop and care for soil, water, and related plant and animal resources for all uses (farming, ranching, housing, recreation, transportation, public facilities, and multiple uses).

§ 505.11 (Reserved)